



UGANDA: Investing in Forests and Protected Areas for Climate Smart Development Project

Summary of the Environmental and Social Management Framework

July 2020

Project Background: Uganda's natural forests are being lost and degraded at one of the highest rates in the world despite their importance for tourism and role they play in supporting other natural resource-based activities. The total net loss of Uganda's forests between years 2000-2015 was estimated at 1.8 million hectares, making an average annual loss rate of 4%. The drivers of forest loss and degradation include agricultural expansion, wood extraction for energy, increased urbanization due to high population growth, free grazing animals and wildfires. Although Uganda has a legal and policy framework to protect forest and other wildlife areas, implementation has been weak and forest laws are unevenly enforced. In order to conserve and sustain forest cover, Government of Uganda has designed the *Investing in Forests and Protected Areas for Climate Smart Development Project* that will be financed by the World Bank (WB) and Government of Uganda (GoU).

Project preparation builds on the national REDD+ Readiness processes during which a National REDD+ Strategy was prepared, through a wide stakeholder consultation process. The National REDD+ Strategy includes 8 REDD+ Strategy Options which have formed the basis for identifying appropriate interventions to be supported by the Project.

Project implementation is led by the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), jointly with the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities (MTWA), Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), and National Forestry Authority (NFA). Communities will have a leading role in the identification, prioritization and implementation of the prioritized Project activities in areas outside protected areas.

Overall, the proposed project is expected to have environmental and social impacts that are highly positive. Consistent with the intent and approach of the REDD+ program, this project contributes to reduced deforestation and forest degradation within target landscapes of Uganda. It will also promote and improve the following: forest management and restoration; management and conservation of protected forest areas and adjacent landscapes; sustainable management of community forests and other wooded landscapes; and enhance livelihoods and economic opportunities for communities and businesses.

The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) sets-out institutional arrangements that will support the management of environmental and social risks and impacts, included associated capacity building needs and budget provisions necessary to fulfil its objectives.

Project Development Objectives: To improve sustainable management of forests and protected areas and increase benefits from forests in target landscapes.

Location of the Project Area: The Project's geographical focus is on selected priority areas in western and north-western Uganda, which includes the Albert Water Management Zone (AWMZ) and West Nile part of the Upper Nile Water Management Zone. Component 3 of the project, which focusses on issues linked to host communities and refugees, will be implemented in 17 districts, in Albert Rift (Hoima, Kagadi, Kakumiro, Kamwenge, Kibaale, Kikuube, Kiryandongo, Kyegegwa) and West Nile (Adjumani, Amuru, Arua, Koboko, Lamwo, Madi Okollo, Moyo, Obongi, and Yumbe). See the attached map.

Project Components: The Project will focus on four main components, namely, i) Improved management of protected areas; ii) Increased revenues and jobs from forests and wildlife protected areas; iii) Improved landscape management in refugee hosting areas; and iv) Project management and monitoring.

Application and screening of activities: The ESMF has outlined mechanisms for screening of the proposed project activities and identified potential environmental and social impacts and their subsequent management. The ESMF also describes the working arrangements between the project implementing institutions and other relevant institutions for implementation of the proposed risk measures and indicated requirements for institutional capacity building. See Annex 1 for Environmental and Social Screening Forms.

Potential impacts and mitigation measures: The positive impacts of this project outweigh the potential negative impacts. These include ecosystem services benefits; improved law enforcement; direct project benefits to local communities; creation of employment; reduced costs/risks in restoration of the protected areas; and mitigated climate change impacts. Negative impacts identified include possible impacts due to establishment of tree nurseries, small plantations and localized impacts within protected areas where small infrastructure (such as park gates, buildings, patrol stations) are to be built. They also include those associated with the anticipated civil works (labour influx impacts on host and refugee communities, social exclusion, exacerbation of gender issues, etc.). Stakeholder consultations identified the need to engage and include Batwa indigenous peoples in the management of conservation areas to which they have cultural attachment, particularly through enhanced engagement in existing and expanded collaborative forest management and collaborative resource management groups. A preliminary Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups Framework has been prepared to address issues related to the Batwa engagement. Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups Plans will be prepared for specific sites as part of the planning of detailed implementation activities. The assessment also identified potential gender discrimination and marginalization of some vulnerable groups in the region. Mitigation measures have been proposed following the ESF mitigation hierarchy for each anticipated impact in order to avoid, minimize or reduce the risks and mitigate effects of the anticipated impact. An ESCP has also been developed to guide the implementation of the environmental and social actions and plans. Given that operation sites are not identified, site specific impacts will be assessed when sites and projects are identified prior to implementation. See Annex 2 for full list of potential impacts and mitigation measures by project activities.

Monitoring and Evaluation: The ESMF sets out the framework for monitoring environmental and social risks and impacts to ensure proper appraisal on the effects of project activities. The process will promote learning, feedback and specific corrective measures be put in place to mitigate any negative effects. It also sets out compliance requirements and enforcement of terms and conditions for approval, including formulating compliance strategies and assessment and management of the environment and social risks and impacts.

ESMF Disclosure

Complete copy of the ESMF is available at: <https://www.mwe.go.ug/library/uganda-investing-forests-and-protected-areas-climate-smart-development-project>

Feedback can be provided to MWE through the following ways:

Written communication to either:
The Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Water and Environment
P. O. Box 20026, Kampala
Telephone: +256 414 50 59 42
Email: ps@mwe.go.ug

Or

The Ministry Clients Charter Coordinator / Head of Human Resources in the Ministry
Telephone: +256 414 221 179

Or

Hand delivery of feedback to our offices at Plot 22/28, Old Port Bell Road, Luzira, Kampala. Our offices shall be open from 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m, Monday to Friday, except during public holidays.

Annex 1. Environmental and Social Screening Forms

1. Project's Brief Description

Activity name:	
Activity Location (include map/sketch):	(e.g. WMZ, District, etc.).
Type of activity:	(e.g. new construction, rehabilitation, periodic maintenance)
Estimated Cost: (x)	
Proposed Date of Commencement of Work:	
Feasibility Study, Technical Drawing/Specifications Reviewed:	(circle answer): Yes No

This report is to be kept short and concise.

2. Refer to Project application for this information.

Physical data:	Yes/No answers and bullet lists preferred except where descriptive detail is essential.
Site area in ha	
Extension of or changes to existing alignment	
Any existing property to transfer to activity	
Any plans for new construction	

3. Sensitivity of the Project

Issues	Site Sensitivity			
	Very Low	Low	Medium	High
Natural habitats	No natural habitats present of any kind	No critical natural habitats or other natural habitats	Receptor has a limited capacity to accommodate physical or chemical changes or influences	Critical natural habitats present
Water quality and water resource availability and use	Project activities does not need use of available water resource	Water flows exceed any existing demand; low intensity of water use; potential water use conflicts expected to be low; no potential water quality issues	Medium intensity of water use; multiple water users; water quality issues are important	Intensive water use; multiple water users; potential for conflicts is high; water quality issues are important
Natural hazards vulnerability, floods, soil, stability/ erosion	No known volcanic/seismic/ flood risks	Flat terrain; no potential stability/erosion problems;	Medium slopes; some erosion potential; medium risks from volcanic/seismic/ flood/ hurricanes	Mountainous terrain; steep slopes; unstable soils; high erosion potential; volcanic, seismic or flood risks
Cultural Heritage	No known or suspected cultural heritage (Tangible and intangible).	Suspected cultural heritage sites; known heritage sites in broader area of influence	Known heritage sites in Project area that shall have interaction with the project activities	Known heritage sites in Project area which can be affected by project activities.

Issues	Site Sensitivity			
	Very Low	Low	Medium	High
Historically underserved/Ethnic minorities and inclusiveness	No indigenous population	presence of indigenous population near the project area	Dispersed and mixed indigenous populations; highly acculturated indigenous populations	Indigenous territories, reserves and/or lands; vulnerable indigenous populations
Stakeholder engagement	The stakeholders are in support of the project and have been well engaged.	Stakeholders are in support of the project but do not have not been well engaged	Some of stakeholders are in agreement with the project while another group is not.	Stakeholders are not well engaged or not in agreement with the proposed project activities

4. Checklist of environmental and social impacts in various project activities

Roads and Trails	Potential for Adverse Impacts				
	None	Low	Med	High	Unknown
Soil erosion or flooding concerns (e.g., due to highly erodible soils or steep gradients)					
Number of stream crossings or disturbances					
Wet season excavation					
Creation of quarry sites or borrow pits					
Significant vegetation removal					
Wildlife habitats or populations disturbed					
Environmentally sensitive areas disturbed					
Cultural or religious heritage ((Tangible and intangible).					
New settlement pressures created / Access protection					
Other (specify):					

Catchment, Forestry, Grasslands Projects	Potential for Adverse Impacts				
	None	Low	Med	High	Unknown
New access (road) construction					
Wet season soil disturbance					
Potential for debris flows or landslides					
Sensitive downstream ecosystems					
Removal of native plant/tree species					
Introduced plant/tree species					
Invasion of native species					
Wildlife habitats or populations disturbed					
Environmentally sensitive areas disturbed					
Insufficient capacity to manage catchment ponds					
Insufficient capacity to prohibit or control open grazing					
Insufficient capacity to manage new plantations/pastures					
Use of pesticides					
Other (specify):					

Infrastructure Projects	Potential for Adverse Impacts				
	None	Low	Med	High	Unknown
New access (road) construction					
Alteration of existing drainage conditions					
Vegetation removal					
Wet season soil disturbance					
Construction materials impact on adjacent forests/lands					
Quarries and borrow pits created					
Cultural or religious sites disturbed					
Water supply development effects in available supply					
Effect of sanitation development on existing disposal sites					
In-migration/settlement induced by facilities development					
Local incapacity/inexperience to manage facilities					
Labor influx					
Other (specify):					

Preliminary Environmental Information:	Yes/No answers and bullet lists preferred except where descriptive detail is essential.
State the source of information available at this stage (proponents report, ESIA or other environmental study).	
Has there been litigation or complaints of any environmental nature directed against the proponent or activity	
Refer to application and/or relevant environmental authority for this information.	
Identify type of activities and likely environmental impacts:	Yes/No answers and bullet lists preferred except where descriptive detail is essential.
What are the likely environmental impacts, opportunities, risks and liabilities associated with the sub-project?	
Refer to ESMF– Impact Mitigation, Disclosure and Monitoring Guidelines	
Determine environmental screening category:	Yes/No answers and bullet lists preferred except where descriptive detail is essential.
After compiling the above, determine which category the sub-project falls under based on the environmental categories 1, 2 3 and 4.	
Refer to ESMF– Screening and Review Process	
Mitigation of Potential Pollution:	Yes/No answers and bullet lists preferred except where descriptive detail is essential.
Does the sub-project have the potential to pollute the environment, or contravene any environmental laws and regulations?	
Will the sub-project require pesticide use?	
Does the design adequately detail mitigating measures?	
Refer to ESMF– Impact, Mitigation and Monitoring Guidelines	

Annex 2. Potential Impact and Mitigation Measure

Project Activity/Components	Environment/Social Impact	Mitigation Measure	Responsibility		Timeframe/Period
			Implementation of the measure	Monitoring of the Measure	
	Environment Impacts				
Project activities under component 1 (Investments to improve the management of forest protected areas) will include some level of civil works	<p>Loss of Vegetation</p> <p>Construction logistical needs, the contractor will require a temporary Equipment Storage area (store), Office space for general administration of the Project Establishment of these auxiliary facilities can cause damage to the greenery in the area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of local communities in the respective Project areas to avoid construction of workers camps or other auxiliary facilities; • The materials stockpile areas have to be fully rehabilitated and restored at the close of the Project works; • There should be no cutting of any trees inside Project areas and if such has to happens, the contractor will be asked to undertake compensatory planting in the ratio of 1:5 and under such scenario, he/she will be required to undertake care for the plants throughout the Project defects liability period; and • The contractors need to instruct their workers to walk along existing pathways in the Project area to avoid trampling on the grass. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervising Consultant • Contractor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UWA • NFA • MWE • NEMA • Local Government 	During the construction period and after.
	Waste Generation both solid waste and sewage are expected to be generated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The contractor will need to put up portable sanitary facilities for the workforce; • Disposal of generated waste in approved site by the local Government or by contracting a licensed waste management contractor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervising Consultant • Contractor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UWA • NFA • MWE • NEMA • Local Government 	During the construction period
During implementation of Component 2 of the Project, construction materials such as	<p>Environmental Degradation</p> <p>These materials have to be extracted and transported to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is to be mitigated through contractors purchasing sand, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervising Consultant • Contractor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UWA • NFA • MWE • NEMA 	During construction period

<p>sand, bricks, and stones for masonry works shall be needed.</p>	<p>the construction sites. The process of extraction of these materials will entail creation of borrow and quarry pits thereby distorting the landscape and aesthetics of the areas.</p>	<p>bricks and stone aggregates from existing suppliers in the areas where the Project works are to be implemented; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Contractors shall undertake due diligence to procure construction materials from sites that do not have encumbrances and/or environmental-community impacts. • The contractor to undertake restoration of borrow pits after extraction of the materials. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Government 	
	<p><i>Risks of Soil Erosion from Loose Excavated Soils</i> Excavation works are not envisaged, but in localized areas, project activities, such as track grading, could generate loose soils which can be susceptible to both wind and water erosion in case of storms thereby silting of rivers and streams.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectively backfilling the trenches, and; • Full restoration and revegetation of the excavated areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervising Consultant • Contractor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UWA • NFA • MWE • NEMA • Local Government 	
	<p><i>Air pollution - Increased levels of noise, vibration, soot and dust.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work must comply with a maximum working time of up to 8 hours; • The equipment used during the works (vehicles and machines), should be regulated in order to avoid gas emissions; • Continuous maintenance and adjustment of machinery and equipment; • Humidification of the ground in the hours of greater flow of vehicles and in the hotter hours of the day; • Keep the buckets of the vehicles covered during the transport of material and regulation of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervising Consultant • Contractor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UWA • NFA • MWE • NEMA • Local Government 	<p>During Construction</p>

		<p>discharges of the combustion system of the working vehicles;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply constructive practices and equipment that generate less noise or reduce noise in order to avoid or minimize inconvenience to the local population; • Avoid cleaning or deforesting the area with fire; • Do not burn any kind of solid waste. 			
During Project Activities Implementation	<p>Impacts due to Establishment of Tree Nurseries and Afforestation Wildlife habitats or populations disturbed Informal land uses displaced or access restricted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specifically targets improved management and restoration of wildlife habitats including of wildlife corridors. • A Process Framework has been developed to address issues associated with restrictions of access to resources within protected areas • The project will not include or support involuntary resettlement and all sites supported under this project have been screened to ensure that involuntary resettlement issues are avoided. • Carry out the planting of native species, according to the guidelines of the environmental impact assessment and the respective environmental management plan approved by NEMA, in order to compensate for the loss of flora during the works. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UWA • NFA • TSP • Communities • Local Governments 	MWE WB	continuous

	<p>Fire Out brakes Fire out breaks are increasingly common in the landscape, and the project includes substantial investments to monitor, detect and suppress forest fires</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve communities in the fire management planning and implementation. The project includes development and investment in landscape-wide and site-by-site forest fire management plans and these will place community awareness and community engagement central in all efforts to reduce and suppress forest fires. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UWA • NFA • TSP • Communities • Local Governments 	MWE	
	<p>Social Impacts</p>				
<p>Investments in targeted interventions, including fencing, walling, installation of hand-dug ditches, protection of water access points to prevent crocodile attacks</p>	<p>Social Conflict due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of existing regulations on the use of central forest reserves, national parks and wildlife reserves. • Reduced access to resources • Huma- wildlife conflicts • Undermining the potential for benefit sharing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage affected community members to identify/propose alternative socio-economic activities, for example through support and expansion of existing implementation of collaborative forest management and participatory resource management activities; • Support effective implementation of existing benefit sharing mechanisms at protected areas through operational support and capacity-building; • Provide alternative socio-economic activities adjacent to protected areas; • Engage affected community members from planning stage through implementation in project activities; • Promote equitable participation and consultation of men, women, boys and children; • Include most vulnerable in the area of operation i.e. women, youth, Batwa (where 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UWA • NFA • TSP • Communities • Local Governments 	MWE WB	Continuous

		<p>applicable), and disabled;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote positive traditions and norms that promote gender inclusiveness in the project; • Support for participatory boundary planning and demarcation activities. 			
	Use of Child Labor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The contractors will be under strict instructions not to employ children of school going age; • Safeguards Specialist together with the supervising consultants will routinely inspect works sites to ensure no children are employment in the Project; • The Districts Community Development Officers (CDOs) and Probation Officers will take responsibility to ensure that sites do not employ children below ages of 18 years; • Involves children in school and out of school in the conversation pilots and training for sustainable knowledge application. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervising Consultant • Contractor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UWA • NFA • MWE • NEMA • Local Government 	During Construction
	HIV/AIDS Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactions between the workers and community members has a potential to trigger risks of communicable diseases transmission such as HIV/AIDS and related STDs. • Close interactions between workers and communities may also result in cases where some workers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervising Consultant • Contractor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UWA • NFA • MWE • Local Government 	Continuous

	commit sexual abuse or have sexual intercourse with underage community members.				
	<i>GBV such as sexual, physical, and psychological abuse of women & girls, defilement, exploitative sexual relationships,</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Workers to sign Code of Conduct • Continuous sensitization of workers • Establish Workers Grievance Redress Committee • Project to cooperate with Local Authorities in maintaining law & order at the project host community • Engage CSO or Consultants to implement GBV-Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervising Consultant • Contractor • UWA • NFA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MWE • UWA • NFA • MLGSD 	During Construction
	<i>Potential Gender Disparity Caused by the project</i> The project considers given the already existing gender barrier in the sector, if this project is not considerate of the potential drivers of gender disparities, the project could exacerbate the phenomenon.	Implementation of the recommendations in the gender assessment was specifically undertaken for the project and mitigation actions to promote gender mainstreaming in the project activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervising Consultant • Contractor • UWA • NFA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MWE • UWA • NFA • MLGSD 	Both at design and implementation, including activity identification, design, implementation and monitoring/reporting.
	<i>Risks on Occupational Health and Safety</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project supervising engineers should inspect contractors' compliance with safety precautions during construction; • Contractor should provide onsite toilet and washing water for workers; and • The water storage tank should be covered and properly managed to minimize mosquitoes breeding; • Provision of the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), according to the nature of activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervising Consultant • Contractor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MWE • UWA • NFA • NEMA • MGLSD • WB 	Continuous

Map of Project Area

